

## Legislative Day 2006

Almost 200 Kentuckians braved winter weather to attend Public Library Legislative Day on February 8, 2006. The theme for the event was "Libraries Build Communities." Public Library supporters, trustees, friends and staff journeyed to Frankfort with a request for an additional \$14.9 million for new statewide funding. The library funding package these supporters were promoting addressed four core needs:



Librarians Attending Legislative Day

PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUND, KRS 171.027 – 1 million in 2007 and an additional \$1 million in 2008

PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT AND EQUALIZATION FUND, KRS 171.201 – \$6 million annually

LIBRARY SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, KRS 171.303 – \$50,000 in 2007 and \$100,000 in 2008

MOBILE AND VIRTUAL ACCESS –\$275,000 annually for bookmobiles and outreach vehicles \$111,100 annually to restore funds to the Kentucky Virtual Library

Sporting day-glow yellow hard hats and matching "Libraries Build Communities" stickers, library supporters traversed the Capitol Annex armed with the plans to expand the state's investment in the program. Offering encouragement to the delegation, State Librarian and Commissioner Jim Nelson noted, "There is no public agency that offers so much to so many as the local library and it's important for local library supporters to bring that message to Frankfort." Susie Lawrence, KPLA

Legislative Chair added: "The most important message is that we MUST mount a massive e-mail and fax campaign to get to all House members. Send them a very simple statement that "Libraries Build Communities" and request that legislators fund public libraries. You can call the Legislative Hot Line at 1-800-372-7181, find legislative information on-line at: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/whoswho.htm> or call your public library for contact information."

In addition, the Legislative Committee has invited key legislators to join a newly formed Public Library Caucus co chaired by Representative Bob DeWeese (R-Louisville) and Representative Bob Damron (D-Nicholasville). The major objective of the Public Library Caucus is to support legislation and budget initiatives in the Kentucky General Assembly that strengthen and advance the important public library agenda.

## **'Cross the Commonwealth**

The **Knott County Public Library** has received a \$210,000 Coal Severance Grant from the Governor's Office for Local Development. The library plans to use this money to purchase a new bookmobile, a new copier, furniture for the library, library books and other library materials.

All 86 of Kentucky's public library websites were reviewed by KDLA's webmaster, with a final 25 of those being reviewed by a committee of KDLA representatives, for a feature in *"The One Page: A Web Design Guide for Kentucky's Public Libraries"*. Eight Kentucky libraries are recognized by KDLA's *"The One Page"* for their improvements, innovations, and creativity over the past year. The top websites for 2005 are: Staff-Managed - **Paris-Bourbon County Public Library, Madison County Public Library, Daviess County Public Library** and **Harlan County Public Library**. Managed by The Library Company (TLC) - **Grant County Public Library, Fleming County Public Library** and **Whitley County Public Library**. Content Management Systems - **Kenton County Public Library**. The reviews of these websites are available at *"The One Page"* <http://kdla.ky.gov/onlinepubs/onepage/0106.htm> on the KDLA website. KDLA thanks all those libraries for the great work they do in Serving Kentucky's Need to Know.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations are included in the March programs at the Cold Spring Branch of the **Campbell County Public Library**. *Silver Arm*, an amazing Celtic music band, will be performing 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14. Then at 4 p.m. Friday, March 17 a St. Patrick's Day Party will be held to celebrate the holiday with games, music and refreshments.

On December 1, 2005, the **Crittenden County Public Library** was host to a one-day kick-off event for the second annual Unite To Read—A Book Adventure in collaboration with several high school service clubs. Approximately 150 members of the Marion/Crittenden County community attended the event. Unite To Read—A Book Adventure is a reading competition for the whole community in which readers will record the books they read and will be awarded, at a later date, gold, silver, and bronze medals in age-group categories for most books/pages read.

## Local Libraries Offer High-Tech Virtual Reference Service 24-7

On Jan. 1, a 24-hour virtual library reference service made available from the Boone, Kenton and Campbell County Public Libraries, will allow Kentuckians to ask reference librarians questions online every minute of every day, holidays included.

Kentuckians will be able to go online and “chat” with a knowledgeable and highly trained reference librarian any time of day or night. Questions also can be submitted via e-mail. Within minutes, questions can be researched and a real answer from a trustworthy source can be sent directly to the customer’s computer.



OCLC, a worldwide library cooperative, makes the around-the-clock service possible. When local librarians aren’t on duty, OCLC librarians will pick up the questions and provide answers. Typically, questions will be answered in less than three minutes.

Michelle Foster, Technology Coordinator for the Boone County Public Library, is the project administrator for the [askwhyky.org](http://askwhyky.org) project. Ms. Foster spearheaded efforts to start the service and received a grant in October for \$103,000 from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). She plans to launch the virtual reference service in three additional counties by March 2006, and have a total of 11 counties throughout Kentucky participating by September 2006. The grant covers the cost of the service, including training for the reference staffs at participating libraries.

To use the new virtual reference, anyone from Kentucky may go directly to the Web address [www.askwhyky.org](http://www.askwhyky.org). Customers will then fill out a brief form with their name and their question. Askwhyky.org also can be accessed through an icon located on each of the three public libraries’ web sites -- [www.bcpl.org](http://www.bcpl.org) for Boone County; [www.cc-pl.org](http://www.cc-pl.org) for Campbell County, and [www.kenton.lib.ky.us](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us) for Kenton County.

“What makes this service so great,” said Ms. Foster, “is that reference librarians are trained to find authentic, reliable information for you. They not only can answer the question, but can supply documentation of where the answer was found. They can refer you to a book, data base, magazine, photo or wherever. Unfortunately, much of what is available on the Web today is just one person’s opinion, and accuracy is often debatable. With [askwhyky.org](http://askwhyky.org), people can trust the accuracy of the responses.”

Ms. Foster said she expects this service will be especially beneficial to students and others who are comfortable using computers for communication.

“This is definitely the trend for the future,” she said.

## **Kentucky Public Library 2006 Salary and Benefits Survey**

The Field Services Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) is conducting a survey of public library employee salaries and benefits in Kentucky. Recruiting and retaining high caliber staff is becoming increasingly difficult due to the complexity of today's library business. Trustees and library management need benchmarks against which to compare the pay and benefits they offer their employees. The goal of this survey is to create a unique management resource that will be invaluable in aiding library administrators in developing competitive salary and benefit packages for their employees.

Salary surveys are nothing new. Other state libraries and the Public Library Association (PLA) have conducted them. Where others have used generic terms for a broad range of positions, such as "librarian I" and "clerk", surveyed for only two or three positions, or are limited to staff with a Masters in Library Science, Kentucky's is different. The "Kentucky Public Library 2006 Salary and Benefits Survey" asks for information in four areas: 1) major benefits offered; 2) number of hours considered full time at a library; 3) base or starting salary per hour for a position; and 4) minimum education required for a position.

The data provided by each library is confidential. It will be used only to establish a salary, benefit, and minimum education requirement range for each position within a county population served range.

The survey will be conducted online beginning on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and will run through Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. KDLA will compile the results in late March. Preliminary results are planned for release at KPLA in Louisville in April. Soon afterwards, the full results will be placed by Field Services on the KDLA website where it will be accessible to everyone free of charge.

You will find the online survey and a printable worksheet (PDF format) by going to the KDLA website at <http://kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/survey/salary&benefits.htm>. A print worksheet is provided for collecting survey information. The completed worksheet may be mailed or faxed to KDLA's FIVCO/Big Sandy Regional Office for data entry if necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact KDLA or your Regional Library Consultant.

### **New KDLA Regional Library Consultant**

Anne Van Willigen joined the Field Services Division as the Bluegrass Regional Consultant on February 1, 2006. Anne has almost 15 years experience at the Department for Libraries and Archives and has served as a cataloger, the head of circulation, and the head of acquisitions. She has been actively involved in the creation of the large print book club kits and the rotating large print collections.

## **Library Construction Grants**

In FY 2005-06, \$400,000 has been provided to the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives by the General Assembly for a public library construction program which is designed to improve local library facilities around the state. Recipients have been selected by a review committee of librarians. These are debt retirement grants that will be given each year for 20 years to help retire the debt incurred for construction. This year's grant recipients are Bell County, Bullitt County, Carroll County, Daviess County, Fleming County, McCreary County and Nelson County.

## **Frances Coleman/Thomas Gale Conference Grant Awards**

Four Kentuckians were among the twelve recipients of the Frances Coleman/Thomas Gale Conference Grant. The purpose of the grant is to encourage professional development and participation by new Southeastern Library Association (SELA) members. The grant will help finance attendance at the 2006 SELA Conference (to be held in Memphis, TN, April 5-7) in the amount of \$500 for a new professional from each of the member states.

Ed McBride, Thomson Gale Representative, will present the checks to Shirley French, Gallatin County Public Library, Deana Groves, Western Kentucky University, Susan Wilkins, Lexington Public Library - Northside Branch, and John Crawford, Woodford County Public Library.

## **New Online MLIS Program**

The University of Alabama now offers an online Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) program. It is custom designed for busy and disciplined students entering the information studies professions. This rigorous program requires the completion of 36-semester hours via web-based technology that creates a virtual-learning campus. The virtual classroom supports the following features:

- Audio – Students will attend live, real-time lectures, ask questions, chat with classmates, and have discussions with instructors.
- Application sharing and content display – Students may view and display presentations, and collaborate on projects and presentations with instructors and fellow students.

Accommodating most schedules, this program requires students to make only one visit to the Tuscaloosa campus. Students may take two online courses each semester and complete the program in as few as six semesters. The American Library Association and the Southern Association of Colleges accredit the program.

For further information, contact by the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies at [www.slis.ua.edu](http://www.slis.ua.edu) or call (205) 348-4610.

## Library Technology Grants for FY 2005-2006

Library Automation	\$169,762
Casey County Create a resource called Casey CAT (Catalog & Automation Technology). This will allow the library to more effectively manage library resources, and create a user friendly online catalog linked to the webpage.	\$ 4,989
Crittenden County Migrate from a DOS based Sagebrush automation system to a modern Windows based system using an Internet friendly program.	\$ 13,082
Daviess County Implement the use of RFID technology to improve circulation and collection management.	\$ 40,000
Frontier Nursing Service Create an online public access catalog of modern and historical midwifery which will be available to remote users via the Internet.	\$ 6,100
Hickman County Undergo initial automation of library patron, circulation, holdings and authority control functions.	\$ 20,520
Shelby County Upgrade the automation system utilizing a windows based application for enhanced patron and staff use.	\$ 39,897
Trimble County Add an additional circulation computer to the libraries automation system.	\$ 2,045
University of Kentucky Create a model of a high density storage facility to develop and test the capabilities of the Voyager Library System to function as an automated retrieval inventory control system.	\$ 24,204
University of Louisville Consolidate both existing and new digitized records in a single system to provide online digital access to major archival holdings.	\$ 18,925
Planning for Automation	\$ 9,568
Green County Prepare for upcoming automation project by attending conferences and evaluating prospective vendors. Library will also purchase cataloging software and computer equipment to better prepare for the project.	\$ 4,568

Menifee County	\$ 5,000
For automation team travel and training while preparing for upgrade of the library automation system. Team will travel to and evaluate several systems to determine the one which best meets the library's future needs.	
 Library Technology Innovation	 \$ 118,715
Bath County	\$ 6,863
Purchase equipment to allow both the library and community groups to record and make available programs via the Internet.	
Boyd County	\$ 13,500
Provide electronic audio books for check-out using iPods, targeting teens who might not otherwise be reading.	
Cumberland County	\$ 6,015
Install a wireless network system and will acquire four laptop computers for use by students, researchers and others requiring large blocks of computer time.	
Daviess County	\$ 12,325
Purchase and promote the use of downloadable audio books, and will provide players to clients without Internet access.	
Franklin County	\$ 9,060
Purchase and install a finger identification system for their new building.	
Greenup County	\$ 17,150
Purchase equipment to provide access to electronic and Internet based resources to blind and low-vision members of the community.	
Menifee County	\$ 23,400
Provide an area with laptop computers, Internet access, printers and music (via headphones) for teens to study and work.	
Owen County	\$ 20,000
Provide equipment and training to teach adults computer literacy skills and remove the fear of computer use.	
Rowan County	\$ 2,260
Convert rare local documents and photographs to digital format and make them available on the Internet.	
Spencer County	\$ 529
Purchase a typewriter for patron use.	
Trimble County	\$ 7,613
Purchase presentation equipment for library and community based programs.	

**Kentucky Public Library Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by Field Services Division of Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Michael Jones. Phone 502-564-8300, ext. 214; Fax 502-564-5773; e-mail: [michael.jones@ky.gov](mailto:michael.jones@ky.gov).

**Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

*Serving Kentucky's Need to Know*  
An agency of the Education Cabinet



Legislative Day 2006	1-2
'Cross the Commonwealth	2
Local Libraries Offer High-Tech Virtual Reference Service 24-7	3
Kentucky Public Library 2006 Salary and Benefits Survey	4
New KDLA Regional Library Consultant	4
Library Construction Grants	5
Frances Coleman/Thomas Gale Conference Grant Awards	5
New Online MLIS Program	5
Library Technology Grants for FY 2005-2006	6-7

**Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**  
**Green River Regional Office**  
**450 Griffith Avenue**  
**Owensboro, Ky 42301-3699**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**  
**PLEASE FORWARD**